

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Contractor Information Notice

To:	BHS STRTP/Q RTP and Wraparound Contracted Service Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services
Date:	September 21, 2021
Title	ST RTP/Q RTP Six Month Aftercare with Wraparound Services FFPSA Requirement Effective October 1, 2021

Family First Prevention and Services Act Updates

On February 9, 2018, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018- Public Law (P.L.) 115-123, which includes the **Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA)**, was signed into law. The FFPSA amends Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, subparts 1 and 2 programs, and makes other revisions to the Title IV-E foster care program.

FFPSA will enhance support services for families to help children remain at home and reduce the use of unnecessary congregate care placements by increasing options for prevention services, increasing oversight and requirements for placement, and enhancing the requirements for congregate care placements. The Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (Q RTP) requirements are summarized in the [CDSS FFPSA Overview and Timeline](#) document dated April 23, 2021, and include:

- The operation of a trauma-informed treatment model and organizational framework
- Access to a licensed or registered nurse 24/7
- Provision of discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least six months post-discharge
- Use of Qualified Individuals (QIs) to conduct assessments of the appropriateness of placement determinations
- New court hearing requirements for each new placement determination

Recent trailer bill language outlines that congregate care settings must comply with the requirements of Q RTPs to continue accessing Title IV-E funding for youth placed in congregate care. This includes the provision of discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports, including wraparound services, for at least six months post-discharge.

Updates to STRTP/Q RTP Requirements

Effective October 1, 2021, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (ST RTPs) aftercare component will routinely extend for at least six months post discharge and will include a connection to wraparound services as the youth transitions out of the STRTP.

ST RTPs have authorization to make direct referrals to BHS contracted wraparound programs and shall routinely discuss the implementation of wraparound services in the Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting during the transition period from the STRTP to aftercare to ensure the team is a part of the recommendation. Wraparound providers can begin providing services up to three months prior to a youth's discharge from the STRTP. It is essential that the recommendation is promptly presented at the CFT meeting and services are commenced during the youth's transition to a home-based setting. The wraparound service provider and STRTP aftercare members work within the CFT structure to access additional outpatient provider support for the youth and family to increase the stability in the community transition. If the aftercare component is not provided for the full six months by the STRTP and/or wraparound connection is not made, a progress note in CCBH shall support rationale.

References

- [FFPSA Federal Bill Text](#)
- [CDSS FFPSA Overview and Timeline](#)

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)